

(Former) Nansemond Ordnance Depot

Suffolk, Virginia
Superfund Program Site Fact Sheet

Type of Facility: Formally Used Defense Site (FUDS)

Funding: Department of Defense
Defense State Memorandum of Agreement

Lead Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Website:
<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/Nansemond/welcome.html>

Site Description and History

The Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) is located in Suffolk, Virginia, at the end of State Route 135 off of Interstate 664. The site is located on the James River at the mouth of the Nansemond River, six miles across Hampton Roads from Newport News and approximately eleven miles west of Norfolk.

The site, initially used in 1917, consisted of 975 acres of land and has been associated primarily as an army ammunition depot. During World Wars I and II, thousands of tons of all types of conventional ordnance was stored, worked upon, and disposed of at the depot. In 1950, the site was transferred to the department of the Navy, and was used as a Marine Corps supply forwarding annex. The facility was deactivated in 1960 and conveyed to the Beasley Foundation, which operated a boy's military school until 1968. This foundation conveyed most of the property to the Virginia Department of Community Colleges, General Electric and Dominion Resources.

Tidewater Community College (TCC), Frederick Campus now occupies approximately 589 acres. Other occupants of the FNOD include General Electric Company Jet Engine Division (GE), the Hampton Road Sanitation District, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and Dominion Land Development.

The FNOD was listed on the NPL in July 1999. The NPL listing identified the following six source areas. These areas are described below. For additional information and current/future activities at these sites, please see the website listed above.

1. **The James River Beachfront Area** was used as a general disposal site during the World War II era. The waste disposed of at the JRB was mainly debris waste, including metal and construction and building debris. Large (greater than 5 ft. in diameter) chunks of molten metal were also observed along the eroded bank of the JRB. This area is located on the James River in a portion of the FNOD currently

owned by the TCC. This area is now protected by a revetment, which was constructed after the removal activities. Ordnance scrap discoveries included bomb fins, 170-mm projectile shells and a cannonball (none of which were live). A human health and ecological risk assessment of the site is planned to evaluate soils left in place beneath the revetment as well as soils at the bluff and to satisfy CERCLA requirements.

2. **The TNT Removal Area** is approximately two to three acres in size and is located along the north side of College Drive on the TCC campus. The site was used as a disposal and maintenance area for ordnance related waste, bulk explosives, propellants, small arms ammunition, and scrap metal during the period of 1917 to about 1950. Bulk explosives were removed along with contaminated soil. Some explosive contamination remains in site soils and groundwater. Ordnance clearance continues into 2003. Data collected from the next sampling event will be used along with appropriate historical data to delineate both groundwater and soil contamination. Crystalline TNT located during the ongoing magnetic anomaly investigation will be removed.
3. **The Main Burning Ground (MBG) AOC** is located on the GE property. Previous uses of the site include the burning and cleaning of ordnance during and after WWI and WWII. Currently, the site area is mostly wooded except for former railroad paths and periodic openings in the tree canopy. Contaminants of concern appear to include both organics and inorganics. There are also unexploded ordnance (UXO) issues associated with the site. A removal action for the ordnance was begun in early 2000. A special issue, which impacts this area, is the presence of both ordnance and HTRW.
4. **The Horseshoe Pond** is located on the Dominion Lands property, south of the GE plant and west of the Impregnation Kit AOC, and is approximately 1.2 acres in size. The site was previously used as a disposal and burning area for solid waste and ordnance. Because the site is mostly wetlands and in the Chesapeake Bay resource protection area, it is unlikely to be developed. Contaminants of concern appear to include both organics and inorganics. There may also be UXO issues with the site.
5. **The Impregnation Kit Area (IKA)** is approximately 300 feet in diameter and is located to the south of the GE plant on the Dominion Lands Inc. property. The site was used as a disposal area for WWI impregnation kits and other debris. A final close out report has been completed. The area is intended to be closed out with a No Further Action Proposed Plan and Record of Decision.
6. **The Track K Dump (Tire Pile)** is located on the TCC campus. The site contains abandoned automobile/truck tires and may have been used as a solid waste dump. A removal action was completed and confirmatory sampling was performed in 2002. A No Further Action Proposed Plan and Record of Decision are planned, provided the Site Screen Planning shows no further site investigation is necessary.

Site Screening Areas:

1. The Nansemond River Beach Front
2. Streeter Creek/Lakeview Drive Ground Scars
3. Near and Off-shore Areas
4. GE Pond/Nansemond culvert
5. Tidewater Community College Lake and J-Area lake
6. Marine Corps Power Generation Building
7. Area J Lake and Possible Burning Ground Area
8. Abandoned Wastewater Treatment Plant
9. Tract A & B burning ground
10. Track A – Explosive Magazine Line & Eastern Disposal Area/Pit
11. Tract G – Explosive Magazine Line ground scars and mounding
12. Tract H & I – Explosive Magazine Line ground scars and mounding
13. Tract J – Explosive Magazine Line ground scars and mounding
14. Tract K – Explosive Magazine Line ground scars and mounding
15. Tract K – Explosive Magazine Line landfill
16. PCB transformer removal
17. Steam Heating Plant removal
18. Photo lab basement
19. Suspected Underground Storage Tanks
20. Officer's Pool Chlorine Containers

Current Site Status

FNOD was added to the NPL in July 1999. The Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District is executing the investigation and remediation activities.

Community Relations

A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meets every other month at the Bon Secours Medical Center, Suffolk, Virginia. The Army Corps of Engineers also maintains a Document and Information repository at the Tidewater Community College library.

VDEQ Representative	Information Repository
Steve Mihalko Remedial Project Manager Virginia Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 1105 Richmond, Virginia 23218 (804) 698-4202, Fax (804) 698-4234 E-mail: samihalko@deq.virginia.gov	Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus Library 700 College Drive Portsmouth, VA Library hours are available at (757) 822-2130.